

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A tank closure apparatus to close a gas tank, the apparatus comprising:

a gas tank cap to removably couple to a tank neck of the gas tank to open and close the gas tank, the gas tank cap including:

a closed top portion to cover an opening in the tank neck of the gas tank when the gas tank cap is coupled to the tank neck of the gas tank,

a cylindrical portion formed integrally with the closed top portion and extending downward from an outer area of the closed top portion around an outer surface of the tank neck when the gas tank cap is coupled to the tank neck of the gas tank, and

at least one contact projection formed integrally with the cylindrical portion, the at least one contact projection extending from the cylindrical portion to contact the outer surface of the tank neck when said gas tank cap is coupled to the tank neck of the gas tank such that static electricity applied to the closed top portion is discharged to the tank neck through the cylindrical portion and the at least one contact projection,

wherein the closed top portion, the cylindrical portion, and the at least one contact projection are formed integrally with one another as a single piece of a conductive material.

12. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical portion extends in a first direction away from the closed top portion, and the gas tank cap further comprises an elevated grip flange extending perpendicularly from a center portion of the closed top portion and in a second direction that is opposite to the first direction.

13. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the closed top portion is in electrical contact with the tank neck through a single electrical contact point.

14. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one contact projection is molded on the cylindrical portion to extend from the cylindrical portion along a direction that is perpendicular to a major plane of the closed top portion.

15. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 14, wherein the at least one contact projection comprises a first end molded on the cylindrical portion close to where the closed top portion meets the cylindrical portion and a second end molded on the cylindrical portion further away from where the closed top portion meets the cylindrical portion than the first end, and the second end is chamfered upward in said direction that is perpendicular to the major plane of the closed top portion.

16. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one contact projection comprises a plurality of contact projections arranged diametrically opposite from each other on the cylindrical portion.

17. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one contact projection extends inwardly from the cylindrical portion in a direction that is parallel to a major plane of the closed top portion to contact an outer side surface of the tank neck.

18. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical portion includes at least one recess hole formed through a surface thereof to accommodate the corresponding at least one contact projection as the gas tank cap is being coupled to the tank neck.

19. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one contact projection is at least one resilient contact projection comprising a leaf spring.

20. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein said conductive material comprises a conductive plastic.

21. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 20, wherein said conductive plastic comprises a polyamide containing graphite particles.

22. (New) The tank closure apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical portion extends away from the closed top portion around a perimeter thereof such that an outer surface of the cylindrical portion and an outer surface of the closed top portion form a non-zero angle with respect to each other.

23. (New) A gas tank assembly, comprising:
a tank neck having a first threading disposed therein; and
a gas tank cap removably couplable to the tank neck, the cap including: a closed top portion formed to cover an opening in the tank neck of the gas tank, a cylindrical portion formed integrally with the closed top portion and extending downward from an outer area of the closed top portion around a surface of the tank neck, an engagement part coupled to the cylindrical portion and extending from the closed top portion into the tank neck, the engagement part having a second threading disposed around an outer surface thereof to engage the first threading in the tank neck, and at least one contact projection formed integrally with the cylindrical portion, the at least one contact projection extending to contact the outer surface of the tank neck such that static electricity applied

to the closed top portion is discharged to the tank neck through the cylindrical portion and the at least one contact projection,

wherein the closed top portion, the cylindrical portion, and the at least one contact projection are formed integrally with one another as a single piece of a conductive material.

24. (New) A gas cap usable to close a gas tank neck, the gas cap comprising:
a neck closing member to couple on and off the gas tank neck to close and open an opening in the gas tank neck, respectively, the neck closing member being formed of a single piece conductive material with at least one contact projection extending from an inner surface thereof to contact the gas tank neck when the gas cap is coupled onto the gas tank neck, the at least one contact projection formed integrally in said single piece conductive material; and

an engagement part coupled to the neck closing member to be insertably disposed inside the gas tank neck to seal the opening in the gas tank neck when the gas cap is coupled to the gas tank neck.